

HOUSE RESOLUTION 30

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of A.C. Clark of Cookeville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of A.C. Clark; and

WHEREAS, A.C. Clark was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on June 15, 1922, on a farm in Willow Grove, A.C. Clark was the son of Charles Edward and Mary Pearl Upchurch Clark; at the age of nineteen, he joined the United States Army, serving in the 45th Division of the 179th Infantry during World War II; and

WHEREAS, initially stationed in Africa, Mr. Clark went on to participate in the amphibious landing and battle for the Anzio beach head of Italy, after which he participated in the liberation of Rome; he then made an amphibious landing in the invasion of Southern France at St. Marime during Operation Dragoon, which resulted in his marching with the division directly across France—into the Vosges Mountains and on to the Rhine River; and

WHEREAS, for his valiant military service, A.C. Clark was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as three Bronze Stars for service above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to civilian life, Mr. Clark earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science from Tennessee Technological University in 1948 and a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Tennessee in 1957; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, A.C. Clark embarked upon what would be a lifelong and distinguished career devoted to agriculture and helping farming families in the Upper Cumberland and throughout this State; he joined the Agricultural Extension as an agent serving

in Pickett County; from 1955 until 1961, he was a 4-H leader and county agent in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, recognized for the superior quality of his work, in 1961, Mr. Clark became supervisor of the Agricultural Extension, and one year later, he was appointed District IV supervisor; and

WHEREAS, ever dedicated to educating and mentoring young people, Mr. Clark was a leader in the establishment of the Clyde M. York 4-H Center near Crossville; throughout his career, his wise advice and guidance led many youths with whom he worked to go on to assume leadership roles in community and state activities. For his ardent service to the organization, Mr. Clark was inducted into the 4-H Foundation Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from the Agricultural Extension in 1986, A.C. Clark was appointed by Governor Ned McWherter to lead the Department of Agriculture; during his two-year tenure as agriculture commissioner from 1987 to 1989, he championed youth programs, production agriculture, and rural economic development; and

WHEREAS, a leader in his field whose opinion was valued by his peers, Mr. Clark served as president of the Putnam County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and the Tennessee Rehabilitation Corporation, as well as a member of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission; and

WHEREAS, after his many years of public service, Mr. Clark was content to take care of his farm and spend time with his family; however, he continued to be a leader in many community and civic activities in his church; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, A.C. Clark was preceded in death by four sisters, Ruth Holman, Anne Keisling, Edwina Langford, and Margaret Coleman; and one brother, Durrell Clark; and

WHEREAS, A.C. Clark is survived by his loving wife of more than sixty-eight years, Katherine Terry Clark; two daughters, Sandra (Ken) Shepherd and Patricia (John) Taylor; two sons, Jim Clark and Eddie (Sarah) Clark; five grandchildren, Kent (Christy) Shepherd, Dr. Garrett (Joriel) Shepherd, Katherine Sloan Clark, Lauren Taylor Clark, and Bradley Palmer

Clark; and six great-grandchildren, Blake Richmond Shepherd, Jared Bennett Shepherd, Maya Janae Shepherd, Tanner Douglas Shepherd, Ellie Ruth Shepherd, and Archer Clark Shepherd; and a host of nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, known for his simple, sage advice, A.C. Clark was a gregarious gentleman who never met a stranger and a highly respected professional beloved by all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, A.C. Clark leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of A.C. Clark, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Clark.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.